NORTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOCIATION

Dedicated to Chess and Education

OCTOBER ' 1997 NDCA NEWSLETTER

NORTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

LIFE MASTER STEPHAN A. POPEL-Elected in 1983

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NDCA Officers

President-John Allensworth
Vice President-Brian Thompson
Sec/Treas-Dale R. Sailer
Public Relations-Mike Sailer

NDCA dues are required of all chess players residing in ND that play in ND tournaments(not mandatory for ND Scholastic) $7 per year, $5 if under age 18. Dues and material for the DECEMBER ' 1997 Newsletter should be sent to Dale Sailer, 3207 E. Elmwood Dr., Grand Forks, ND 58201.

STARRY KNIGHTS CLUB (is being discontinued after Dec 18, 1997. Contact: ART BAYLEY **239-4985.**

UND CHESS CLUB-Contact: Dale Sailer 775-6692

CHESS TOURNAMENTS

December 6, 1997-Frosty Days Are Here Again Open -Carnegie Regional Library-Grafton
December 12-14, 1997-Four Queens Holiday Championships-Las Vegas, Nevada
December 27, 1997- Scholastic Tourney at Park Christion School, Moorhead, MN
1998 SCHOLASTIC- Dates and site still being worked out
May 29, 1998- 1998 ND Speed Tournament - Best Western Doublewood Inn, Bismarck, ND
May 30-31, 1998- 1998 Closed Best Western Doublewood Inn, Bismarck, ND

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Peter the Great

by Mike Sailer

Last month North Dakota heard some sad news. Three-time state champion, Peter Thompson, and his family moved to Indiana to start a new job. I personally was saddened to hear of such a great player taking his chess gift to another state. Peter was instrumental in passing on his enthusiasm of the game to many people, including myself. Peter taught grade-school children the game and gave students from Fargo the opportunity to compete (and win) at the scholastic tournament. Peter also promoted the game in other ways such as giving a simul at Barnes and Nobel, starting a club at NDSU, and giving lectures at area tournaments. However, I'd like to share how Peter helped me as a player.

Seven years ago when Peter moved into the state, I was a very young expert with enough self confidence about my chess game to beat any grandmaster that might get in my way. I was looking forward to the challenge of competing against a master on a regular basis, hopefully to show to myself that I was an underrated expert that deserved the master title. The first game I played against Peter was a small tournament at Moorhead State. I had white and started throwing my pieces up the board real confidently against my higher-rated opponent. Before long, my position was horribly overextended and I had to throw a couple of pawns into the kitty in order to stave off immediate defeat. As time control neared, I was just plain lost. However, on the last move of first time control, Peter blundered the exchange and found himself in a lost endgame. With my renewed life, I managed to display my horrible endgame technique and dwindle away advantage only to offer Peter a draw in an unclear position, which he promptly accepted.

After this game, I began to realize that I was probably an overrated expert with many more flaws in my game than I had ever thought. Playing against Peter several hundred times at the Thursday night club in Fargo emphasized this point. I personally owe Peter a lot because if it wasn't for the opportunity I had to learn from him, I would never have become a master. Peter excelled in areas of chess that I struggled in. Over the years, I always felt that I was a better opening and early middle-game player, but Peter was a far superior late middle-game and endgame player. However, reflecting back to my games against Peter, the reason I usually gained an early initiative against Peter was because I compromised my position in some way. One of the differences between Peter and myself is patience. I normally refuse to go on the early defense even if a potential endgame would be advantageous. I remember countless games in which I allowed my pawns to become doubled thinking it wouldn't matter because I would win the game before it ever went into an endgame. Yes, I occasionally would win the game before the endgame. But more often then not, I had to either draw an inferior endgame or even lose the game.

Peter and I played each other 5 times in tournament games. We beat each other twice in a North Dakota Closed last round, and we drew each other 3 times. Our last game we played against each other occurred in the 1997 ND Closed last round. We each had 4 points, but I knew I needed to win because of the tie-break system. As it turned out, I only managed a draw and Peter took the state championship on tie-break. I am happy that Peter was able to win the state championship before he moved.

1997 ND Closed
White: Peter Thompson
Black: Mike Sailer
Round 5

1. e4 c5 2. c3 d5 3. d3 (This move although passive, avoids any opening preparation I had coming into the game.) **Nc6 4. g3 Nf6 5. Qc2 e5** (I was trying to turn the game into a kings indian defense with the colors reversed. I have to be careful however, because I am transposing the position into known lines where white has an extra tempo. I have witnessed many games in which this extra tempo is decisive.) **6. Bg7 Be6 7. Nd2 Be7 8. Ngf3 O-O 9. O-O** (Peter is a master at the kings indian formation.) **Re8** (If I had it to do over, I would have closed up the center with d4.) **10. Re1 Bf8?** (I hadn't anticipated how weak my f7 pawn would become.) **11. Ng5 Bc8** (This is a thematic move to avoid trading a bishop for a knight, but in this position, I should have just allowed the trade. Now my position becomes uncomfortable.) **12. exd** (Peter opens up the position to his advantage.) **Nxd4 13. Qb3 Qxg4** (I didn't want to move my queen out this early in the game, but I had no choice.) **14. Bxd4 Qg6** (My queen really doesn't belong here. Peter has a clear advantage now. At the time, I was cursing myself for allowing Peter such a strong position this early. Now I am in the uncomfortable position of trying to win an inferior game.) **15. Be4** (I think white could have taken better advantage of my misplaced queen. Now black is allowed to get his queen back where it belongs.) **Qe6 16. Nf3 Qxb3 17. axb3** (The doubling of white's pawns is more than compensated by the opening of the a-file.) **Bd7** (The tactics allow me to just barely get away with this move.) **18. Bd5 h6** (I need to prevent white's knight from attacking my f7 pawn.) **19. Bd2 Bd6 20. Be3 Be6 21. Bxc6 bxc** (From this point on, it is going to be a struggle for black to drum up enough play to win.) **22. Nd2 Reb8 23. Ne5 Bf8 24. Nxc5 Bxc5 25. Bxc5 Rxb3 26. Ba3** (I'm pretty sure Peter had better continuations than this. Now black has an advantage, although probably not enough to win.) **Rb5 27. d4 exd 28. cxd Rd8 29. Bc5 Rxb2** (Black has turned the game completely around. Now it is black that holds the better game.) **30. Rxa7 Rdb8 31. Bd6** (This move saves white's position. Now white can protect his f pawn with his bishop on e3. I probably could have prevented white from this defensive resource.) **Rbb3 32. Bf4 Rc2 33. Be3 Rbb2 34. Ra1 Bd5** (Black has a dominating position, but no way to win the game.) **35. Rac1 Kh7 36. Rxc2 Rxc2 37. h3 g5** (The only constructive plan black has left is to push the kingside pawns up the board. It isn't enough to win, but I was desperate to win the game.) **38. Kh2 Kg6 39. g4 h5 40. Rg1 f6 41. h4 hxg 42. Rxg4 Kh5 43. Kg3** (Black could have won a pawn at this point by 43. ... Be6 44. Re4 Bf5 45. Re8 gxh4+ 46. Kh2 h3. However, white's rook is just active enough to prevent black from being able to win the game. I wish I would have seen the continuation during the game. It would have been fun to give it the old college try.) **Draw**

After our game, there was only one game left. Ironically, it would be the game to decide the state championship. If Robert Spiess won, Peter was the state champion on tie-break. And if Dave Koch won, I would be the state champion on tie-break. However, despite the outcome of the game, I realized I didn't deserve the title because I couldn't win the game head to head. As it turned out, Robert won a very tricky endgame against Dave and Peter became the official state champion. Peter will be greatly missed.

TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frosty Days Are Here Again Open Tourney

December 6, 1997, Carnegie Regional Library. 4 rounds g/60,g/60,g/70, g/80. Sudden death rules apply. EF is $10. Cash prizes for top finishers.Swiss system. John Allensworth, TD

Four Queens Holiday Championships

December 12-14th, 1997

Normally we don't advertise national events in this newsletter but Mr Fred Gruenberg, the tournament organizer requested that I include it. I have attended 3 National Opens (87,90,92) that Mr. Gruenberg organized in Las Vegas, Nevada. All 3 tournaments were very well ran and I and my sons Mike and Matt had a great time. So if you are up for a fun chess tournament in December' 97, I am sure you would enjoy the Four Queens Holiday Championships.

Dale Sailer, Editor

Scholastic Tourney at Park Christian School

December 27, 1997, Saturday after Christmas. EF: $3.00 for K-9 (Hopefully there will be a 7-9 group) at Park Christian School 300 N. 17th St. Moorhead, MN. Medallions to first place winners. Ribbons to 2nd and 3rd place winners. For information call Art Bayley at (701)-239-4985.

1998 Speed ND Closed Speed Tournament

May 29, 1998- Best Western Doublewood Inn in Bismarck

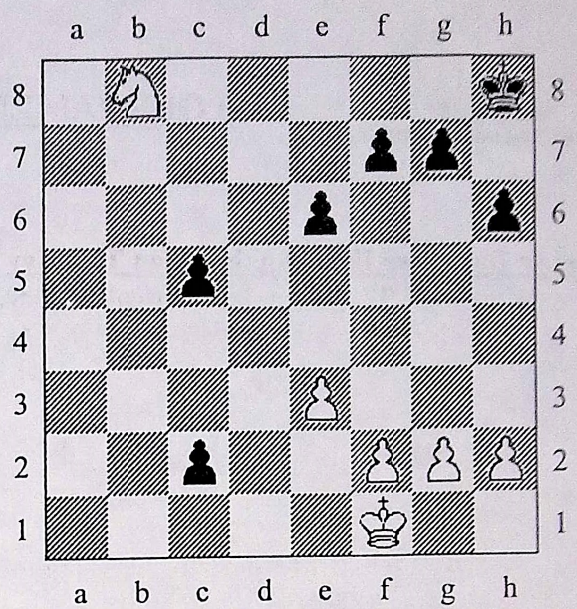
1998 Closed Championship

May 30-31-Best Western Doublewood Inn in Bismarck. 6 Rds. (4rds Sat. and 2rds Sun.) details in next newsletter.

This space reserved for future tournaments!

□ **Cliff Barnum_Tallahassee,Fl** 1448
■ **John Allensworth_Grafton,ND** 1625
Internet chess Club–11/30/97 1997

1.b4 a6 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e3 Nc6 4.b5 axb5 5.Bxb5 d5 6.a4 e6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Nd4 Bd7 9.0–0 0–0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.c3 Rb8 12.Ba3 Bxa3 13.Rxa3 c5 14.Nf3 Bc6 15.Ne5 Bb7 16.Rb3 Qd6 17.Nf3 Ba6 18.Re1 c6 19.d3 Rxb3 20.Qxb3 Bxd3 21.Rd1 Ba6 22.a5 Rb8 23.Qc2 h6 24.Na3 Qf8 25.Ne5 Qe8 26.Rb1 Rxb1+ 27.Qxb1 Qc8 28.Qb6 Be2 29.Nxc6 Kh8 30.Nb5 Bxb5 31.Qxb5 Nd7 32.a6 Qa8 33.Qb7 Qxb7 34.axb7 d4 35.b8Q+ Nxb8 36.Nxb8 dxc3 37.Kf1 c2
0–1



DOG DAYS OPEN

No.	AUGUST 16, 1997	STATE	PRE	POST	RND #1	RND #2	RND #3	RND #4	RND #5	TOTAL
1	HAGEN, DALE W.	MN	1656	1686	*	W	W	W	W	4.0
2	SAILER, DALE R.	ND	1533	1554	L	*	W	W	W	3.0
3	SAILER, JON	ND	1308	1340	L	L	*	W	W	2.0
4	ALLENSWORTH, JOHN	ND	1461	1417	L	L	L	*	D	0.5
5	BAYLEY, ARTHUR W.	ND	1438	1400	L	L	L	D	*	0.5

BOOKIN' IT AGAIN TOURNEY SECTION 1

No.	SEPTEMBER 13, 1997	STATE	PRE	POST	RND #1	RND #2	RND #3	TOTAL
1	SAILER, DALE R.	ND	1554	1571	*	W	W	2.0
2	ALLENSWORTH, JOHN	ND	1417	1419	L	*	W	1.0
3	SAILER, JON	ND	1340	1320	L	L	*	0.0

BOOKIN' IT AGAIN TOURNEY SECTION 2

No.	SEPTEMBER 13, 1997	STATE	PRE	POST	RND #1	RND #2	RND #3	TOTAL
1	ALLENSWORTH, JOHN	ND	1419	1453	*	W	W	2.0
2	SAILER, JON	ND	1320	1333	L	*	W	1.0
3	SAILER, DALE	ND	1571	1523	L	L	*	0.0

FALL BACK OPEN

No.	OCTOBER 25, 1997	STATE	PRE	POST	RND #1	RND #2	RND #3	RND #4	TOTAL
1	LEITEL, JOHN H.	MN	1824	1825	*	D	W	B	2.5
2	SPIESS, ROBERT, JA	ND	1777	1785	D	*	W	W	2.5
3	BAYLEY, ARTHUR W.	ND	1400	1400	L	L	*	B	1.0
4	WINEGAR, MICAH L.	ND	1359	1356	F	L	F	*	0.0

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

DEC 3 1997

FARGO, N.D. 58102 #1 12/04/97 23:12

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56560-3450 10